

WKU KYVL STUDENT FOCUS GROUP
JANUARY 23, 2001, 5:00 – 6:00 P.M.

SUMMARY

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and Focus Group Assistant Moderator

Six attendees participated in the KYVL Student Focus Group including three undergraduates (two seniors, who were also student reference workers; and one freshman); two graduate students (MBA and Library Media Education); and one non-traditional student who occasionally takes classes and is a full time staff member in the Interlibrary Loan department.

The **reasons** given **for using library databases** included research, homework, job-related, personal interests and convenience. The **most used KYVL databases** were EBSCOhost's Academic Search Elite, MasterFile Premier, and Business Source Premier; and WorldCat, ERIC and Article1st in FirstSearch. Also used, but to a lesser extent, were PsycINFO, Health Source Plus, and Newspaper Source in EBSCO; and Contents1st, Medline, PapersFirst, and Proceedings1st in FirstSearch.

The most **helpful aspects** of the KYVL databases included the full text, the ease of getting materials, the advanced search options (being able to search by author, date, title of article or source, etc.), and being able to find out what's in the library before coming in. (This latter reason may refer to using the Voyager online catalog to check library holdings).

The most **frustrating aspects** of the KYVL databases included the lack of coverage in specialized subject areas, having to learn the proper terms and search strategy to get good results, and getting too many irrelevant hits when using the easier keyword searching. Additionally, many of the databases in FirstSearch indicate full text is available, such as ECO, when in fact the full text is not available at our institution. One participant stated that EBSCO was much more difficult to use than the InfoTrac it replaced which she felt was more user friendly and liked much better.

Subjects participants would **like to see better coverage for** included business, music, fine arts and performing arts, science and chemistry. **Specific databases recommended** were northernlight.com, ABI/INFORM, InfoTrac, and Music Literature. ScienceDirect Web was also mentioned, which WKU will be getting through its Voyager catalog for those Elsevier journals it subscribes to. The desire is to have ALL Elsevier journals covered in full text.